

within the Pearl of Great Price are three books: the book of Moses, the book of Abraham and the writings of Joseph Smith. The book of Moses came into existence in June, 1830, only two months after the organization of the church as a revelation to the prophet. It is a kind of introduction to the book of Genesis; it tells how Moses came to know the story of the creation, and the relation of man to God. A little later in the same month, extracts from the prophecy of Enoch mentioned by Jude in the Old Testament were revealed to Joseph Smith and added to the book of Moses/

Because of the uniqueness of the book of Abraham's history, I would like to leave it until last and tell you first a little about the last book of the Pearl of Great Price, the writings of Joseph Smith. The first section/??/ is an extract from a translation of the 24th chapt. of Matthew and gives in much more precise

language than the bible an insight on the last days and the saviours second coming..The second section contains extracts from the history of Joseph Smith.. It tells of his first visions and revelations,, of his obtaining the plates of gold, and alao the account of his baptism and Ordination. The thrid section contains the Articles of Faith.

Now to go back to the second book, The Book of Abraham. It/ seems that in the year of 1828 a French explorer named Antonio Sebolo, obtained permission from Mehemet Ali, the Viceroy of Egypt to explore for antiquities where stood formerly the acient City of Thebes. Here he entered some catacombs and carried away eleven mummies found in a perfect state of preservation. On his way to Paris, however, M. Sebolo died; therefore, the mummies were directed to a nephew named Chandler. Mr Chandler lived in Philidephia, Pa. Though it was supposed his home was in Ireland

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After a devious course, the mummies finally came to New York, addressed to Micheal Chandler. There the caskets were first opened and examined. In conection with ~~to~~ of the bodies was found two rolls of Papyrus beautifully written with black, and small part red, ink or paint.

A stranger standing near at the time recommended to Mr. Chandler that he seek out the Mormon Prophet Joseph Smith, as probably the only man who could give a correct traslation of the manuscripts.

However, Mr. Chandler began to exhibit the mummies in the larger cities of the United States where he secured certificates from learned men that the mummies and papyrus were geniune. At last he came to the City of Kirtland where he immediately sought out the Prophet and presented him with copies of the Egyptian characters to translate. The prophet gave him the interpretation and recieved the follow ing certifiacte from Mr. Chandler.

Kirtland, Jul 6, 35

"This is to make known to all wgo may be ~~to~~

desires, concerning the knowledge of Mr. Joseph Smith Jr, in deciphering the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic characters in my possession, which I have in many eminent cities, showed to the most learned; and, from the information that I could ever learn, or meet with, I find that Mr. Joseph Smith Jr.: to correspond in the most minute matters.

Michael H. Chandler,
Traveling with and Proprietor of Egyptian Mummies.

Soon after receiving this certificate some of the Saints in Kirtland purchased from Mr. Chandler the mummies and Papyrus. There upon the prophet began to translate the Hieroglyphics and to his joy found that one of the rolls contains the writings of Abraham, where as the other contains writings of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt. The first of these the Prophet translated in part. It recounts the trials of Abraham in the Idolatrous home of his father's and his miraculous deliverance. It tells also of the creation of the world and of the spirits before, and reveals the system of

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It appears that the Papyrus roll containing the
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Papyrus were sold and after changing hands
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When the great fire swept Chicago in 1870, the
museum was destroyed; and with it , presumbbly ^{the}
mummies and the scared records of old.

I hope that through my telling somewhat
of the contents of the Pearl of Great Price and
the history behind it that a desire has been
created in you to read the sacred record, and
I do it in the name of Jesus Christ

Amen.

H. Tracy Hall

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*Given in
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